

Les Jardins de l'Écoumène (Jean-François Lévêque)

Les Jardins de l'Écoumène are dedicated to the production of organically certified naturally pollinated seeds of rare and heritage vegetables and fruits. We actively support the safeguarding of rare species by reintroducing them into kitchen gardens. Every year, about a hundred varieties of seeds (such as Oka Melon and Golden-Sweet mange-tout peas) are available.

Since the gardens are organic, they are managed as a unique ecosystem, with several measures in place to ensure its equilibrium and the biodiversity of endemic and indigenous species. Several nesting boxes and shelters have been introduced to encourage the settlement of diverse species of birds, reptiles and amphibians. Also, a variety of aromatic and melliferous plants, old tree stumps, and rocks have been incorporated into the gardens to provide habitats for valuable insects. In addition, cultural practices favouring the biodiversity of ground fauna and flora have been adopted. Finally, the often negative impact of humans has been reduced to a minimum through the use of solar energy, composting toilets, and a filtering marsh.

In order to increase the variety of seeds on offer, a variety of cultivars are sown every year. Presently, we are specifically focusing on the production of particular varieties of radish and melon. Workshops to pass on our passion for healthy cultural practices will soon be available to the public.

At Les Jardins de l'Écoumène, we consider biodiversity to be the equivalent of the earth's immune system.

